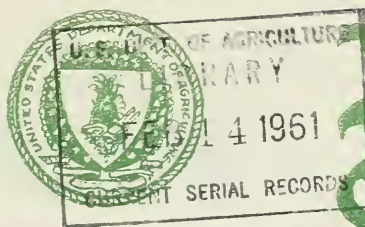


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USDA  
CLUB



News

ISSUE NO. 4

Dallas, Texas

November 4, 1960

USDA CLUB TO HOLD NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

By Jo Ann Chapman

The USDA Club is extremely fortunate to have for its guest speaker at its next General Meeting a most distinguished man, Erle Cocke, Jr.

To say that Georgia's 38-year-old Erle Cocke, Jr., a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Assembly, is a most unusual young man, would be a gross understatement. In the last dozen years, he has written more firsts into a long record of business accomplishments than most men do in a lifetime.

Being called on to serve his country is no new experience for the Georgia man, a much decorated World War II hero and a former National Commander of the American Legion. He has been State Chairman and National Vice President for the National Red Cross, and has served as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army since 1952. Previously, he was a consultant to the Secretary of Defense. He has been noted for being in places at the precise moment historic events unfold. He was in Moscow's Red Square when the Russians announced the firing of their first Sputnik, and many other historic occurrences have been witnessed by Cocke.

As a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Armed Services Training Installations, he completed the most extensive traveling itinerary ever attempted by anyone in his position.

Cocke holds an amazing war record as the following honors disclose: For extraordinary gallantry in action with Major Gen. McAuliffe's forces, Cocke was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart with three clusters, the Bronze Star with clusters, the French Croix-de Guerre, and was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross on the field of battle. He also holds other decorations from the governments of France, Italy, Spain, Cuba, Mexico, China and the Philippines. Gen. McAuliffe once said, "Erle Cocke was the best individual soldier I saw in the war."

We are indeed honored to have such a man preside over our USDA General Meeting on November 21.

CHIT-CHAT CORNER  
by Lee Wasson

Congratulations to OZELLE WALLER, OD, who won first prize at the State Fair for her original-design hooked rug and third prize for her embroidered cross-stitch linen table cloth. It would seem Ozelle's talents are boundless.

A new "old" face in DAC -- ISOBEL LOVE. It's very nice to have Isobel working with us again.

Did you know that Myra and BILL BOREN, FI, recently spent their vacation in Las Vegas and had such a profitable time that the entire trip was "for free."

Two new employees in TM -- ETNA DUNAWAY and CLEVE GAZAWAY. Cleve is the son of June Gazaway, former DAC employee. It's back to A&M at mid-term for Cleve, though.

MARY DeMINT, FI, spent her three weeks' vacation in Delmont, Pa., visiting her mother.

FRANCES PAGE, FI, has moved into a new home at 6223 Worth. Congratulations and "happy fixing-up."

HILDA BESS WARREN, DAC, recently spent two weeks' vacation in Ark., visiting with her mother and father, and fishing. Did you know that Hilda is quite an enthusiastic and expert "fisherman."

BEVERLY CHAMBERLAIN, DP, has a little boy, Douglas Wayne, born Sept. 7.

Another grandson for DOROTHY McCLENDON, former SM employee -- Kyle Dudley was born Oct. 16 to her daughter, Margie.

It's a girl for ELSTER VERSWYVELT, DP -- Elizabeth Grace born Oct. 8.

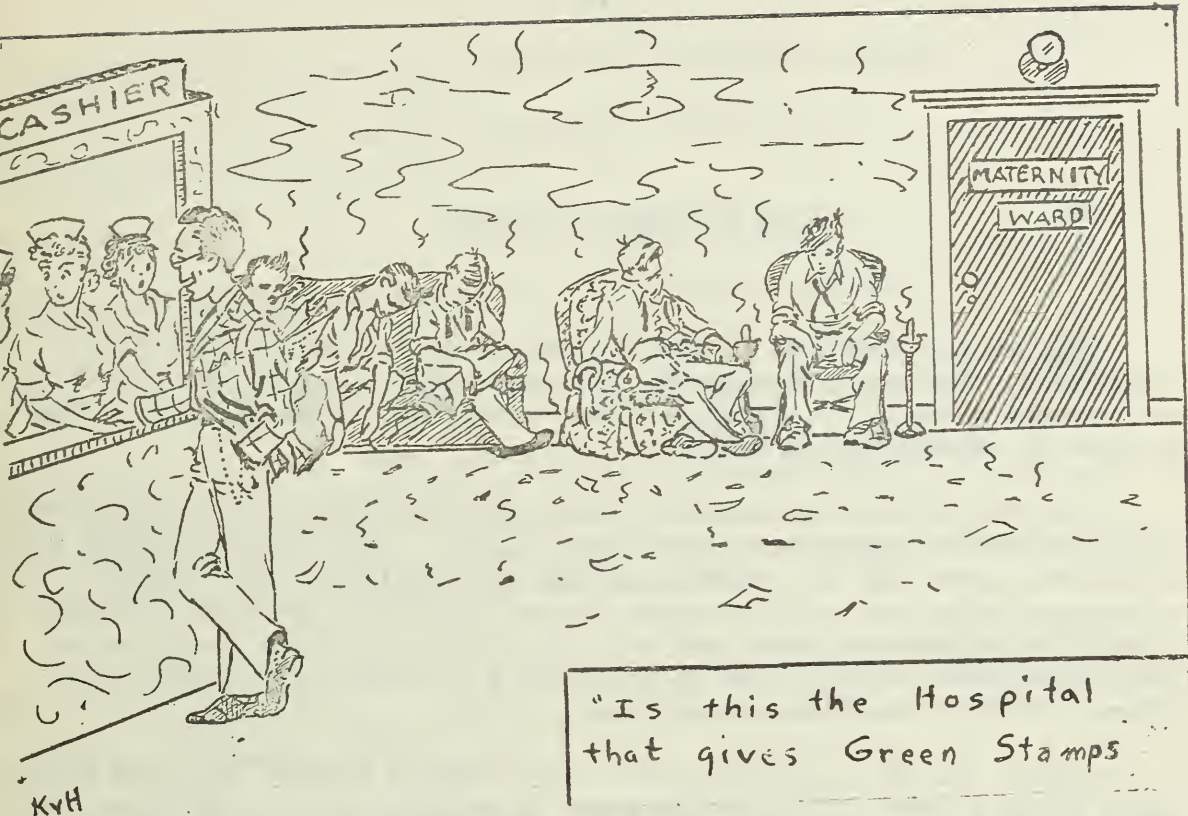
R. N. RICHARDSON is home (3722 Holland) from the hospital again. I'm sure he would appreciate a card or note from his friends.

BILL and MARGIE WILLIAMSON's daughter, Terry, went to the hospital Fri., Oct. 21 for corrective oral surgery (8 teeth). She recovered magnificently and returned to school on Monday.

Doloris Oldham, for several years with CSS prior to her resignation after the arrival of her son, Jimmy, is now with Food Distribution Branch. It is good to have such a fine worker return.

We are sorry to hear of the fire loss suffered by Bava B. Stilley, Marketing Information Service, AMS. We refer, of course, to the fire in early October to the Mart Drug Store at the corner of Young and Ervay, which is owned by Mrs. Stilley. The paper work connected with a fire loss is tremendous, reports Bee. She recommends that everyone keep a close track of papers which prove ownership.





I would hasten to agree with you that this is not the funniest cartoon you will ever see. Moreover, in recent times you have probably seen scores of cartoons along the same theme. The point to my story is that this cartoon was drawn in 1956 by Kathryn vanHalter on the occasion of the birth of my youngest daughter, Betsy, who is now nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years old. When this is considered, you will agree that it was originally a timely cartoon. Mrs. vanHalter now lives in California, and I have requested her to send along any other cartoon ideas that she may have. This is probably the only USDA publication in the country which has a California art correspondent.

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The art work in the October issue, as well as all of the posters and other material for the Halloween Party were made by the very talented Bill Campbell, Data Processing Division. Our thanks to Bill for his time and talent.

Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but it doesn't get you anywhere.

### A 25 PER CENT PAY RAISE

This is the title of an article appearing in the October, 1960 VISITOR, the Personnel Management Division publication of the Office of the Director, 9th U. S. Civil Service Region, St. Louis, Missouri. The article is reproduced verbatim:

The fine package of Federal fringe benefits gives each Civil Service employee almost 25 per cent additional salary. Most employees look only at the take-home pay in their bi-weekly pay envelope. This really represents only part of the earned income of a Civil Service employee. A rough calculation of the cash value of fringe benefits would add at least one-fourth more to the annual salary of every Civil Service employee. Do your employees know this?

Here's the way it figures out. The average Federal employee makes about \$5000 a year. This is the gross take-home pay. In addition to this basic salary of \$5000, there are indirect benefits as follows:

	<u>Annual</u>
The agency contribution to your retirement account. (This is not the 6-1/2 per cent that you contribute to the retirement account - your agency contributes another 6-1/2 per cent.)	\$325
Seven paid holidays.	135
Annual leave computed at the average of 20 days used per employee per year.	386
Sick leave computed at the average of 6.3 days used per year. (This would be much higher if it were figured on the 15 days earned per year.)	121
The agency's contribution and its share of your life insurance premium. This figures 12-1/2 cents per \$1000 of salary per pay day.	

The agency's contribution toward your health benefits premium.	\$ 62
Unemployment insurance benefits, computed at the State of Missouri premium rate of .3 of 1 per cent.	15
Coffee breaks.	182
Employee compensation computed at the going rate of one-half of 1 per cent salary.	25
	<u>\$1271</u>

Actually the total cost is probably a little higher because many employees are entitled to military leave in addition to all other leave. For an employee earning \$5000 a year this would be worth \$386 per year. Other employees are called to jury duty. One week of jury duty would be worth \$93 for an employee whose salary was \$5000.

This study forces two conclusions. One is that the annual salary of government jobs is only part of our pay. At least 25 per cent additional benefits, computed in cash, are given to us by Uncle Sam in the form of retirement, insurance, leave, etc.

The second conclusion is this: In cash value, in breadth of coverage by almost any standards the package of fringe benefits now available to Federal Civil Service employees is as good as, if not better than, the package offered to private employees of the most progressive commercial and business firms.

It is easy to compute the cash value of your own fringe benefits. Here's the way to do it: Take your base salary. Take 6-1/2 per cent for the agency's retirement contribution. Take 2-2/3 per cent for paid holidays. Take 7-1/2 per cent for annual leave. Take 2-1/2 per cent for sick leave. Take .4 of 1 per cent for life insurance premium. Take 1-1/4 per cent for health insurance premium. Take .3 of 1 per cent for unemployment benefits. Take one half of 1 per cent for employee compensation benefits. Take 3-1/4 per cent for coffee breaks. Add these percentages together and multiply these times your annual salary and you will get an approximate figure on the real wages you receive from your Civil Service job.

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The VISITOR also included an article reporting the change of Military Leave from a calendar year to a fiscal year basis. I read the article but I must confess that I am not sure I understand it. I am, therefore, referring it to my own personal advisor in these matters, Mr. J. T. Hedgepeth. Since Hedge also uses Military Leave, I am confident that none of the advantages in this change, if any, will be overlooked.



# "A WORD OF THANKS"

The Officers and Directors of the U.S.D.A. Club are happy to report that the fund raising drive has been completed with excellent results.

Donations were received which totaled nearly \$375.00 which will be more than enough to complete the years program as planned.

Our sincere thanks to all of you for your fine cooperation and help.

Hal Wright  
President

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We were deeply saddened by the passing of MILDRED TURNER on Oct. 18. A long-time employee of USDA, Mildred was working in FI.

Curtis, husband of EMMA LOU HALL, TM, died suddenly Oct. 18 in Mojave, California. They were visiting their daughter, Tommie. Our heartfelt sympathy to Emma.

We were very sorry to hear that G. R. McPHERSON lost a sister recently. Margaret Clifton passed away on Oct. 26 in Plymouth, N. C.

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lee wasson

## TO YOUR HEALTH

Recent eye accidents reported to the Health Unit prompt some first aid suggestions.

First, keep in mind preventive measures. When using sprays, take care to direct away from the face. Always carefully shield eyes when using hair spray.

Read the label carefully before using eye drops or ointments to be sure you have the proper medication. Do not use old medicines or those prescribed for other persons.

If an irritating material is sprayed or splashed into the eye, immediately irrigate the eye with clean water. The water may be poured into the inner corner of the eye and allowed to rinse over the eyeball and under the lids. Rinsing should be continued until at least a quart of water is used. If near, a drinking fountain can be used for thorough rinsing.

Prolonged rinsing may be necessary if a large amount of irritating material, particularly an acid or strong alkali, has been splashed into the eye. In any case, a physician should be consulted, but remember the importance of rinsing without delay.

Jean Morgan, R. N.

ALWAYS! BE SAFETY-CONSCIOUS!



7.

A THOUGHT FOR YOU  
by Hal Wright

We've often heard the saying, "I complained because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet." How true this is. Yet, how seldom, if ever, have we stopped to grasp the real meaning these words impart.

November brings thanksgiving time. I'm sure we will all agree that rarely we find a person who will not admit he has much to give thanks for as he sits down at his Thanksgiving table.

Nevertheless, as we make mental notes of our good fortunes, many of us tend to look too much at the tangible things we have and fail to give proper consideration to the many intangibles of our everyday life which cannot be measured by dollars.

Too often we look with envy at the other fellow who seems to have a little more cash, a larger home or a finer car, when in reality in many cases we are far richer in other ways.

I think man was created to have a purpose in life and not just to gather possessions. Too often we judge people by their goods instead of their goodness.

This year, as we gather with friends and relatives for a Thanksgiving Day Dinner, let us all think not of things of monetary value but of things which

money cannot buy such as the loyalty of good friends, the contentment of good health, and the security of living in America.

After all, we not only have the shoes but we have the feet to put in them.       \*\*\*\*\*

THANK YOU

Mr. Edward P. Onstot, Chairman of the Federal Section, 1960-61 Dallas Community Chest Campaign has reported that our section went over its quota at the October 19 reporting meeting. Squad 8 of the Federal Section included all offices of the Department of Agriculture and we are proud to report that our squad went over its quota with almost 100% participation. This record, exceeding our quota for the second year, is indeed a credit to all of you in our public relations. Mr. Bill McCullough of Farmers Home Administration was our Squad Captain and we wish to thank all employees of the Department of Agriculture for the splendid support given him in this year's Community Chest Campaign.

Returns

Lora Reagan, Fiscal, I & P  
Alma Lindsey, DACD  
June Dale Mann (Nee Green) COD  
Previously in DPD  
Sammy Polansky - Warehouse  
Examiner in Storage Management  
Division - from Military  
Training

Laterals

Bill Williams, from I&P to C&C

GIVE A TOY AND SHARE THE JOY WEEK  
November 28 - December 2, 1960

Sponsored by the Dallas Federal Business Association, Give a Toy and Share the Joy Week will provide all Federal employees with an opportunity to give new and/or used toys to needy children in Dallas County. Mr. John J. Slaughter, Food Distribution Division, USDA, is chairman of the program for F.B.A. and said that the interest in this year's program clearly points out that it will be a success; a program that will be an indication of the quality of Federal employees.

Mr. Slaughter outlined the program by stating: "All new and usable toys will be accepted through the campaign representative in your agency. This includes larger items such as bicycles, tricycles, wagons, etc. Special arrangements will be made to pick up any larger items you wish to give. Used toys will be repaired through the efforts of some 60 Dallas Firemen, under the direction of Mr. Loyd Johnson of Station #27. Both new and used toys will be distributed by the firemen to needy children on a family basis. Mr. Johnson emphasized that it is very important that everyone be informed that used toys should be in reparable condition, that is, all the parts should be intact. The failure of programs similar to this one can be directly related to the fact that many people use the collection as a deposit-all for a great many unwanted, unusable items. This necessitates time, when time is of the essence, to separate the toys and dispose of those unusable items."

You may be proud of the wonderful Christmas you can provide your children but you'll find it's a warm feeling indeed to be a part of some unfortunate child's Christmas. So, before this Christmas Season and in time for Give a Toy and Share the Joy Week (November 28 through December 2), take an inventory of your children's toys and see how many you can find that are forgotten and unneeded. You may even wish to explain the program to your children and let them go through their toys. You're likely to be surprised at the unselfishness and understanding of children.

Check with your neighbors and bring their used toys as well.

Remember and talk about Give a Toy and Share the Joy Week, November 28 through December 2, 1960.

Bill Walker

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